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SEP 2 3 2004

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600

In re Application of:

Noriyoshi Hiraoka et al. Serial No. 09/735,186

Filed: December 15, 2000

For: AGRICULTURAL METHODS

WITH SUPERHEATED STEAM

DECISION ON REQUEST

FOR RETURN OF

SURRENDERED ORIGINAL

PATENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.178

Applicant's request filed December 29, 2003, under 37 CFR 1.178 for the return of the original Patent No. 5,867,935, which the applicant indicates was surrendered mistakenly in the pending Reissue application no. 09/735,186 is hereby noted. The applicant indicates that Patent No. 5,848,492 is the patent that actually corresponds to the Reissue application above. However, the Office has no record of the 5,867,935 patent being surrendered. There is no artifact folder (where surrendered patents are commonly held in Reissues) for the above noted IFW Reissue case.

Since the Office has nothing to return, the request is **NOT APPROVED**.

Telephone inquiries relative to this decision should be directed to Special Programs Examiner Steven Meyers at (703) 308-3868.

Steven N. Meyers, Special Programs Examiner Patent Technology Center 3600

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SM/SM: 9/23/04